

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Novgorod Oblast)	REPORT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Prison No. 3, Borovichi 2. Imprisonment of Spaniards from the "Blue Legion"	DATE DISTR.	7 May 1953	
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4. Prison No. 3 was for Borovichl rayon. It was located in the center of the town on the banks of River Msta, and it consisted of an old two-story building constructed before the Revolution. The prison yard was surrounded by a wooden fence eight meters high with two rows of barbed wire on top. All windows were provided with iron shutters admitting very little light. The Borovichl Prison had 26 cells accommodating about 15 prisoners each. Out of these 26 cells, two were for women and one for juvenile delinquents. The prisoners' terms varied from three to four months. This was actually a type of transient prison, and prisoners with sentences over four months were sent either to another prison or, as it generally happened, to a labor camp. There was a prisoners' labor detail which worked in the prison mechanical shop, in the boiler room, or in the court-yard, which consisted of approximately 15 male prisoners. There were several women prisoners working in the kitchen. Other prisoners were not used for any work; they spent their time in the cells playing chess, reading books, or just hanging around. They were not allowed, however, to sleep or to lie in their beds during the daytime. Once a day for 30 minutes prisoners were taken to the court-yard for exercise. There were three meals: a breakfast of black tea; a dinner of a bowl of fish soup or gruel; and a supper of another bowl of soup. The daily bread ration was 500 gm. Prisoners who worked in labor details got the same food as those who did not and 600 gm. of bread instead of 500. Prisoners were allowed to have visitors: one visitor per prisoner every two weeks. The visitors were received in a room where there were two wire partitions making a neutral space one meter wide between the prisoner and visitor. At one time there used to be as many as 15 prisoners and as many visitors in this room. Some would be crying, the others shouting, and everybody speaking loudly to make himself heard above his neighbors. The noise was such that one could hardly hear his own visitor. Prisoners were allowed to receive food parcels and clean underwear once a week through the prison administration, where the parcel's contents would be thoroughly checked. Twice a month prisoners were allowed to write letters. For this purpose they received a sheet of writing paper, ink, and a pen. All of this had to be returned to the guard as soon as the letter was written. Taps at 2200 hours. The cell lights were never put off; but the prisoners had to be in their beds and they were not allowed to talk after 2200 hours. In the mornings

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prisoners had to get up at 0600 hours. There were evening and morning roll calls held in the cells. Once bi-weekly, cells were thoroughly examined for any concealed tools, knives, unauthorized printed matter, needles, nails, pencils, writing paper, or other contraband. On these occasions the prisoners had to undress so that all their belongings could be inspected and searched.

5. The Borovichi Prison was guarded by an MVD detachment of 30 men. The guards on the towers located at each corner of the yard were armed with submachine guns. In addition, police dogs were released in the yard at night. Guards on duty in the court-yard and in the prison building had formerly been unarmed, until 1937, when there was a riot. Then one day the prisoners overpowered the internal guards, got hold of arms, and killed several guards, succeeding in an escape from the prison.
6. [redacted] on Easter Sunday, 1952, quite a number of old men and women came to the prison bringing along some Easter cakes to be given to the prisoners. This religious custom even now exists in the USSR. The prison administration, however, did not accept the food. 25X1
7. There was a group of approximately 15 Spaniards in the Borovichi Prison. Reportedly they were original members of the Spanish Voluntary "Blue Legion" which fought on the German side in World War II. They had been captured by the Soviets and put to work in the coal mines, where they spent more than six years. They had kept on requesting to be repatriated; and, since nothing was done in this respect, they finally refused to work and were sent to prisons throughout the USSR. [redacted] 25X1
8. A prison or corrective labor camp sentence up to four months did not result in the record of imprisonment being entered in the culprit's passport. Such prisoners, when released from prison, were given certificates to the effect that they had served the sentence and been released. This was a new policy. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Sentences over four months were entered as before into one's passport. People who had served such long sentences could hardly get any decent job after their release.

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